

Message Text

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42 44

ACTION IO-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 23964

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - T A G S

NESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG, APER, UNESCO

SUBJECT: PROBABLY IMMINENT APPOINTMENT OF ABDUL-RAZZAK
(SYRIA) AS UNESCO'S ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GENERAL
FOR NATURAL SCIENCES

1. PERMDEL HAS LEARNED FROM SEVERAL SOURCES THAT UNESCO DG INTENDS, FOLLOWING WRITTEN CONSULTATION WITH EXBD MEMBERS, TO ANNOUNCE APPOINTMENT OF ABDUL-RAZZAK KADDOURA (SYRIA) AS ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR NATURAL SCIENCES WITHIN THIS WEEK. IT HAS BEEN RELIABLY REPORTED THAT DG WILL OFFER DEPUTY ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GENERAL POST TO KOICHIRO HAYASHI (JAPAN), CANDIDATE US SUPPORTED FOR ADG JOB AND JAPANESE HAVE INDICATED TO PERMDEL THAT HAYASHI WILL ACCEPT NUMBER 2 POST.

2. IN ADDITION TO KADDOURA'S HIGH PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR SUBJECT POST, THERE APPEARS BE SEVERAL RELATED REASONS BEHIND DG'S DECISION TO APPOINT KADDOURA. THESE ARE OUR ASSESSMENTS:

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A. DG POSTPONED CONSULTING BOARD MEMBERS AT 97TH

SESSION ON THREE ADG POSTS, INCLUDING NATURAL SCIENCES, BECAUSE THERE WERE TOO FEW CANDIDATES. HE APPEALED TO MEMBER STATES TO SUBMIT ADDITIONAL CANDIDATES AND STRESSED POINT THAT TOP POSTS (DEPUTY ADG, AGD, DDG) WILL BE APPOINTED ON BASIS OF EQUITABLE GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION. IT HAS BEEN ASSUMED THAT ONE OF UNESCO'S TOP POSTS HAD TO GO TO AN ARAB.

B. PERMDEL UNDERSTAND THERE HAS BEEN GOOD RESPONSE FROM ARAB COUNTRIES TO DG'S APPEAL FOR LOANS AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO ASSIST UNESCO IN ITS PRESENT FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES. DG MAY HAVE FELT UNDER SOME OBLIGATION TO RECOGNIZE THIS ASSISTANCE BY APPOINTING, SOONER RATHER THAN LATER, AN ARAB REPRESENTATIVE TO TOP POST.

C. PERMDEL'S ANALYSIS OF TOP UNESCO POSTS SHOWS THAT ONLY ARABS IN SENIOR POSTS IN "RECENT" TIMES HAVE BEEN SABA (EGYPT), ADG, OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS, WHO LEFT ORGANIZATION DECEMBER 31, 1970, AND ELMANDJRA (MOROCCAN), ADG FOR PRE-PROGRAMMING UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 1974. ELMANDJRA IS NOW D-2 SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO DDG FOBES, BUT HAS NO EXECUTIVE OR ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES. IT THEREFORE FOLLOWS THAT ARAB MEMBER STATES CAN LAY CLAIM TO HAVING BEEN UNDER-REPRESENTED AT TOP LEVEL.

D. PERMDEL DOES NOT REPEAT NOT INTERPRET DG'S DECISION TO APPOINT KADDOURA AS BEING IN ANY WAY ISRAELI-CONNECTED. WE HAVE NEITHER SEEN NOR HEARD EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THIS VIEW. AND FINALLY, IN CONCLUDING THIS PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS, USDEL SHARES VIEWS HELD BY OTHER WESTERN PERMDELS THAT OF ALL UNESCO SECTORS, ADG FOR NATURAL SCIENCES IS THE ONE LEAST SUBJECT TO POLITICAL PRESSURES AND MANIPULATION TOWARD OBJECTIVES NOT IN STEP WITH US AND ITS POLICIES.

E. REPORTS INDICATE KADDOURA IS WELL QUALIFIED MODERATE WHO WILL STICK TO SCIENTIFIC MATTERS AND AVOID POLITICAL ISSUES.

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